

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

DOVER, AUGUST 12.

A GENTLEMAN of this town, who has a very fine burning-glass, a short time since made the following experiment: he took a small piece of thin paper and bored a hole through it, the bigness of a pin; then taking the burning-glass, he melted a piece of spectacle-glass, and let one drop fall in the power, which has formed an excellent microscope: take a pin, and dip the head into standing water, and let the water, taken up on the head of the pin, be put on this drop of glass, then looking through on the opposite side, you may discover an ocean of water, in which are millions of live creatures of different kinds and sizes swimming about, some of which are as big as beams: take the point of the smallest cambric needle and pass upon one side, and look through the other, you may discover a large pyramid, or a vast large steeple; in short, the vast magnitude which this drop of glass will give the smallest substance is so curious as to outgo all credulity, and reflects the highest honour on the discoverer.

PETERSBURG, SEPTEMBER 9.

Extract of a letter from New-York, dated August 27.

"Yesterday arrived in this port the brig Rebecca, captain Codwise, in 44 days from Cadiz. Captain Codwise informs, that when he left Cadiz, NO WAR was declared; that Mr. Fitzherbert, the British ambassador, was still at the court of Spain, waiting a reply to his unconditional demands, by order of his royal master; that it was understood that Mr. Fitzherbert had limited the time for a categorical answer in forty-eight hours after captain Codwise sailed; that the Spaniards were in great preparations for war, having a fleet of forty-six sail of the line, besides fifty gun ships and frigates, lying at that port. Several reinforcements of troops under strong convoys, had been sent off to different dominions under the Spanish crown."

Extract of a letter from a mercantile house in Lisbon, dated June 23.

"The advices we have lately received from Italy, Spain, France and England, inform of their having noble harvests of wheat: and all over this kingdom the crops yield abundantly, and of the best quality, which causes prices to lower daily."

LAWS OF THE UNION.

CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES,

AT THE SECOND SESSION.

Begun and held at the city of New-York, on Monday, the fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

RESOLVED, by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be forthwith transmitted to the executives of the states of Virginia and North-Carolina, a complete list of the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the lines of those states respectively, who are entitled to receive arrears of pay, due for services in the years 1782 and 1783, annexing the particular sum that is due to each individual, with a request to the executives of the said states to make known to the claimants in the most effectual manner, that the said arrears are ready to be discharged on proper application.

That the President of the United States be requested to cause the secretary of the treasury to take the necessary steps for paying, within the said states respectively, the money appropriated by Congress, on the 29th day of September, 1789, for the discharging the arrears of pay due to the troops of the lines of the said states respectively.

That the secretary of the treasury, in cases where the payment has not been made to the original claimant in person or to his representative, be directed to take order for making the payment to the original claimant, or to such person or persons only as shall produce a power of attorney, duly attested by two justices of the peace of the county in which such person or persons reside, authorizing him or them to receive at certain specified sum: except where certificates or warrants have been issued under the authority of the United States for any of the said arrears of pay, and the same shall be produced by the claimant or claimants.

F. A. MUHLENBERG, S. H. R.
JOHN ADAMS, V. P. U. S. &c.

Approved—August 4, 1790.
GEORGE WASHINGTON,
President of the United States.

(True copy)

THOMAS JEFFERSON, S. S.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

July 20th, 1790.

In obedience to the order of the house of representatives, of the twentieth of January last,

The Secretary of the Treasury,

Respectfully reports,

THAT in the formation of a plan for the disposition of the vacant lands of the United States, there appear to be two leading objects of consideration; one, the facility of advantageous sales according to the probable course of purchases; the other, the accommodation of individuals now inhabiting the western country, or may hereafter emigrate thither.

The former, as an operation of finance, claims primary attention; the latter is important, as it relates to the satisfaction of the inhabitants of the western country. It is desirable, and does not appear impracticable, to conciliate both.

Purchasers may be contemplated in three classes: monied individuals and companies, who will buy to sell again—associations of persons who intend to make settlements themselves—single persons or families now resident in the western country, or who may emigrate thither hereafter. The two first will be frequently blended, and will always want considerable tracts. The last will generally purchase small quantities. Hence a plan for the sale of the western lands, while it may have a due regard to the last, should be calculated to obtain all the advantages which may be derived from the two first classes. For this reason it seems requisite that the general loan-office should be established at the seat of government. It is there that the principal purchasers, whether citizens or foreigners, can most easily find proper agents, and that contracts for large purchases can be best adjusted.

But the accommodation of the present inhabitants of the western territory, and of unassociated persons or families who may emigrate thither, seems to require, that one office, subordinate to that at the seat of government, should be opened in the north western, and another in the south-western government.

Each of these offices, as well as the general one as the subordinate ones, it is conceived, may be placed with convenience under the superintendance of three commissioners, who may either be pre-established officers of government, to whom the duty may be assigned by law, or persons specially appointed for the purpose. The former is recommended from considerations of economy, and it is probable would embrace every advantage which could be derived from a special appointment.